



COCHISE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

1415 Melody Lane, Bisbee, Arizona 85603

432-9278

(520) 432-9240

Fax

Susan Buchan, Director

Agricultural Exemptions

Under certain circumstances, property that is in commercial agricultural production may be exempt from the Cochise County Zoning Regulations and the Building Safety Code. In order to qualify for this exemption the land must be in existing commercial farming/ranching use and be a **minimum of five acres in size**.

Agricultural land, for purposes of such exemptions, shall be defined as "land that is being used for the commercial production of an agricultural crop or commodity. The primary use must be for this purpose and the use must be active at the time of application for the exemption with no plan to discontinue agricultural activities. In addition, a reasonable operating profit must be possible from its agricultural use.

You can demonstrate eligibility for an agricultural exemption by producing verifiable evidence of commercial agricultural status such as:

- Receipts for agricultural goods sold totaling \$1000 or more during the past 12 months;
- A tax form showing agricultural status;
- Commercial advertisements (not classified ads) in a newspaper or the Yellow Pages;

Please note that agriculturally exempt properties are not exempt from Health Department requirements such as septic permits, and you may still be required to obtain right-of-way permits for County highway access, floodplain permits and manufactured home installation permits meeting state standards. You must complete the attached form along with appropriate evidence and return it to the Planning Department in order to be granted exempt status. Failure to provide adequate evidence of commercial activities shall subject the Applicant to zoning and building code regulations, permits, and fees as applicable.



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AGRICULTURAL STATUS FOR PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT:

Tax Parcel No.: _____ Total Acres of Subject Parcel: _____

Name of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Proposed Structure(s): _____

Proposed Use of Structure(s): _____

Describe how the subject parcel is used for commercial production of an agricultural crop or commodity (cropland, grazing, etc.): _____

Proof of commercial viability, receipts, tax forms, etc (attached applicable info): _____

How many years has it been in active production? _____

CERTIFICATION SIGNATURE:

I hereby certify that I am the owner or duly authorized owner's agent and that all information on this form is accurate. I understand that if any of this information is false, it may be grounds for denial.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

FOR STAFF USE ONLY:

Existing Zoning on Parcel: _____

Zoning Map Referenced: _____

Growth Area Category: _____

Plan Designation: _____

Assessors Usage Code: _____ (attach printout from DOR)

Is Proposed In Conformance With Ag Status? Yes _____ or No _____

If "No" what are the issues: _____

Date Information Transmitted to Applicant: _____

Prepared By: _____

Your County Questions Answered

www.cochise.az.gov